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Letter dated 20 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I attach my assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Mauritius in the month of January 2002 (see annex). This assessment has been prepared under my own responsibility following consultations with members of the Council, pursuant to the note by the Council's President dated 12 June 1997 (S/1997/451) and should not be considered as representing the views of the Council.

I should be grateful if this letter and the attached assessment could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jagdish **Koonjul**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 20 February 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Mauritius to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Mauritius (January 2002)

The assessment of the work of the Security Council for the month of January 2002 has been prepared under the responsibility of its President during that month, Jagdish Koonjul, Permanent Representative of Mauritius.

Introduction

The Security Council witnessed a change in the composition of its membership in January 2002. Five newly elected members, namely, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guinea, Mexico and the Syrian Arab Republic, replaced the five members (Bangladesh, Jamaica, Mali, Tunisia and Ukraine) whose term on the Security Council had ended on 31 December 2001. The President started the month with consultations on the appointment of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the eight sanctions Committees. This was settled at the first informal consultations of the Council, held on 4 January.

The programme of work for the month which included the renewal of the mandates of four United Nations peacekeeping missions: UNMOP (Prevlaka, Croatia), UNOMIG (Abkhazia, Georgia), UNIFIL (Lebanon) and UNTAET (East Timor), was also adopted at the same meeting.

The Security Council examined during the month of January 11 reports of the Secretary-General relating to the situations in Prevlaka (Croatia), Abkhazia (Georgia), Lebanon, East Timor, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone, Western Sahara, Afghanistan, Kosovo (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia), the Central African Republic and Eritrea-Ethiopia.

The Security Council heard briefings on Afghanistan, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Public meetings were held on Kosovo, East Timor, counter-terrorism, Afghanistan and the situation in Africa. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius, Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, presided over the public meetings on the situation in Africa, Afghanistan and East Timor. A public meeting was also held for the wrap-up session on 31 January.

The Security Council held two private meetings. On 14 January, the Council met in private to hear the presentation of the third report of the Chairman of the Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations. On 29 January, at a private meeting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Léonard She Okitundu, briefed members of the Council on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

To sum up, the Security Council held, during the month of January, a total of six public meetings, two private meetings, four private meetings with the troop-contributing countries (UNMOP, UNTAET, UNOMIG and UNIFIL) and 13 informal consultations of the whole.

The Security Council adopted seven resolutions and two presidential statements. The resolutions adopted concerned the extension of the mandates of UNMOP (resolution 1387 (2002)), UNOMIG (resolution 1393 (2002)), UNIFIL (resolution 1391 (2002)) and UNTAET (resolution 1392 (2002)); lifting sanctions against Ariana Afghan Airlines (resolution 1388 (2002)); sanctions on Osama bin Laden, al-Qa'idah organization and the Taliban (resolution 1390 (2002)); wide-ranging support of UNAMSIL for the elections in Sierra Leone in May 2002 (resolution 1389 (2002)).

The presidential statements were on Eritrea and Ethiopia (S/PRST/2002/1) and the situation in Africa (S/PRST/2002/2).

The President made 12 statements to the press on behalf of the members of the Security Council and briefed non-members of the Council on specific issues discussed in consultations of the whole.

During the month of January, the web site of the Permanent Mission of Mauritius to the United Nations, http://www.un.int/mauritius, was linked to the United Nations Security Council web site,

http://www.un.org/sc/presidency, and both sites featured the Security Council programme of work, Council resolutions, presidential statements and statements to the press by the President of the Security Council. Daily summaries of meetings as well as other relevant information on the activities of the Security Council during the month of January were posted on the web site of the Permanent Mission of Mauritius.

At the beginning of its presidency, in an explanatory note circulated to all members of the Security Council, the delegation of Mauritius provided details on the programme of work as well as on the objectives set in the execution of its responsibilities during the presidency of the Security Council for the month of January 2002. The objectives were as follows:

- Pursue every effort in the promotion of global peace and security;
- Enhance the role of the United Nations in conflict prevention and in the field of peacekeeping;
- Strengthen cooperation between the Security Council and regional organizations;
- Assist in promoting peace and stability in countries/regions that will retain the Council's consideration during the month of January;
- Address the humanitarian situation of civilian populations in armed conflicts, paying particular attention to women and children.

The above-stated objectives were achieved to a large measure, in particular that of strengthening cooperation between the Security Council and regional organizations. At the public meeting on counter-terrorism, statements were delivered on behalf of nine regional or subregional organizations on their efforts to combat terrorism at the regional level. During the public meeting on the situation in Africa, the importance of closer collaboration and cooperation between the United Nations, the Security Council in particular, and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was highlighted by several delegations.

General issues

Counter-terrorism

A public meeting (4453rd meeting) on counter-terrorism was held on 18 January. The Secretary-General, who opened the debate, stated that "Member States are for once, really using this Organization in the way its founders intended — as an instrument through which to forge global defence against global threat". He called for closer coordination among different United Nations bodies as part of a more coherent approach to the threats posed by terrorism. The Secretary-General also drew attention to the difficulties faced by some States in their fight against terrorism. He called on the Counter-terrorism Committee to explore assistance programmes to address these problems.

The Security Council heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Counter-terrorism Committee, Sir Jeremy Greenstock. He stated that resolution 1373 (2001) aimed at raising the average level of government performance in the fight against terrorism globally. He also informed the Security Council that, during its first 90-day period, the Committee had issued guidance to States on the submission of their country reports, and had published a directory of contact points to promote global cooperation to counter terrorism. A pool of independent experts had also been selected to advise the Committee. The Committee had received country reports from 123 States by mid-January 2002. The Committee would respond confidentially to each Government on its respective report.

Twenty-eight countries which are not members of the Security Council also participated in the debate. Nine of them spoke on behalf of regional organizations or groups. Emphasis was laid on global cooperation to combat terrorism, which had become a major threat to international peace and security. Attention was called to the need to give more consideration to issues that fuelled terrorism. The links between terrorism, transnational organized crime, illicit drugs, money-laundering and trafficking in illegal arms were highlighted.

The provision of technical assistance and expertise to States to assist them in the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) was also addressed.

Situation in Africa

A public meeting (4460th) on the situation in Africa was held on 29 January. The deliberations focused on issues outlined in a working document entitled "Guidelines for the public meeting on the

situation in Africa", which had been circulated by the Permanent Mission of Mauritius (see S/2002/46). In view of the long list of speakers (43 in total) the meeting was suspended at 7.30 p.m. on that day and resumed the following afternoon. The meeting was presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius. Ten Ministers and Deputy Ministers both from the delegations to the Security Council and the United Nations general membership participated in the meeting.

The Deputy Secretary-General opened the meeting and in her statement urged the participants in the debate to focus on issues where the Security Council has direct responsibilities and possibilities for action particularly in forging a stronger relationship between the United Nations, OAU and the sub-regional organizations. She underlined the importance of cooperation between the United Nations and the political mechanisms that some subregional organizations have created with a view to developing integrated approaches to conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peace-building.

The Deputy Secretary-General also called on the African partners to strengthen their own logistical capacities, especially in the area of peacekeeping, and underlined the importance of a more serious and concerted effort by the international community to build up and sustain regional capacities.

The Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Amara Essy, advocated greater cooperation between the United Nations and OAU. He stated that the United Nations-OAU partnership should ensure the development of better coordination with regard to peace initiatives in Africa. He insisted that Africa should shoulder its responsibility in dealing with the prevailing crises. He drew attention to the fact that, in all areas of conflict, the danger of deterioration remained. In this regard, he saw the Security Council as the light guiding us forward. He also added that OAU today and the African Union tomorrow would work unfailingly as partners for peace, justice and development.

The President of the Economic and Social Council, who took the floor under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, said that the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council could work together more effectively within the purview of their respective mandates in addressing issues affecting the African continent. The Economic and Social Council had, on several occasions, devoted its attention to development in Africa. In this regard, he recalled that, in July 2001, the Economic and Social Council had adopted a Ministerial Declaration reiterating the support expressed at the Millennium Summit for the consolidation of democracy in Africa and assisting Africans in their quest for lasting peace, prosperity and sustainable development. The participation of the President of the Economic and Social Council was commended by many delegations.

Most of the delegations called for closer collaboration and cooperation between the United Nations and OAU and the need to provide institutional, financial and material support to OAU and subregional organizations in Africa with a view to advancing the peace processes on the continent and to achieving peace, security and development in Africa. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall, made a summary of the two-day session (see appendix II).

A presidential statement (S/PRST/2002/2) was adopted by the Security Council outlining a series of measures and recommendations aimed at preventing conflict and creating political, social and economic conditions essential for peace and sustainable development in Africa. The Council would also consider the establishment of an ad hoc working group to monitor the recommendations made during the public meeting on the situation in Africa and to enhance coordination with the Economic and Social Council.

The meeting was carried live on the United Nations web site. This was the first live webcast of a meeting of the Security Council.

Africa

While the attention of the international community continued to be directed, during the month of January, to the situations in Afghanistan and the Middle East as well as the threats posed by terrorism to international peace and security, particular attention was given to Africa during the Mauritius presidency. Almost all the issues on the Council's agenda relating to Africa were dealt with, in one way or another, during the month. Of the 13 consultations of the whole, nine

were devoted to African issues (Guinea-Bissau, Eritrea-Ethiopia, Sierra Leone-UNAMSIL, Central African Republic, Burundi, Western Sahara, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Angola and Liberia).

Angola

Pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of resolution 1374 (2001), Ambassador Richard Ryan, Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola informed the Council, during informal consultations on 16 January, that the Committee had reviewed the recommendations made by the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA in its three reports and considered the programme of work of the Mechanism for its current mandate.

The Chairman of the Committee also advised Council members on the status of the list of senior UNITA officials and adult members of their immediate families.

Burundi

The members of the Security Council, meeting in consultations of the whole on 15 January, were briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, on the situation in Burundi. They were informed on political developments regarding the new transitional Assembly. They were also briefed on the work of the Implementation Monitoring Committee as well as the military and security situations. In addition, the Under-Secretary-General provided an update on the status of ceasefire negotiations and the humanitarian situation in Burundi.

In a statement to the press on 15 January, following the consultations, the President, on behalf of the Council members, welcomed the setting up of the transitional institutions in Burundi, in particular the National Assembly, and encouraged all the parties to complete the process.

Members of the Council strongly called for a ceasefire and urged the rebel groups to cease hostilities immediately and to enter into negotiations, while reiterating that there could be no justification whatsoever for any attacks by the rebel groups. The Council encouraged all States, in particular those in the region, to continue to support the efforts of the facilitation, led by the President of Gabon, Omar Bongo, and the Deputy President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, to bring the armed groups into the peace process. They also stressed the importance of the dialogue between Burundi and its neighbours and, in this regard, welcomed the improvement in the bilateral relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, in particular the outcome of the recent visit of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Burundi to Kinshasa.

Members of the Council strongly encouraged the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi to cooperate further and in this regard commended the Government of South Africa for its positive contribution to the peace process in Burundi; and reiterated their call to the donor community to enhance humanitarian activities and development cooperation with Burundi and to honour as soon as possible the commitments made during the round-table meeting on Burundi held at Geneva in December 2001.

Central African Republic

On 10 January, members of the Security Council were briefed in informal consultations of the whole by General Lamine Cissé, Representative of the Secretary-General, on the situation in the Central African Republic. He also introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Central African Republic (S/2002/12). Council members considered the report, which covered the political, social, human rights, security, military and economic situation in the Central African Republic.

Council members expressed deep concern about the increasing problems affecting the political and economic situation in the Central African Republic. They welcomed the positive steps taken by the Central African Republic authorities and called upon them to continue to facilitate national dialogue and reconciliation. They requested the Secretary-General, through his Representative and in cooperation with OAU, to harmonize the various initiatives taken at the regional level to restore calm and stability in the Central African Republic.

Council members encouraged the international community to provide the necessary assistance to the Central African Republic. They expressed concern about the interdependence between the continuing crisis in the Central African Republic and the situation

in neighbouring States in particular and the subregion in general.

Council members were unanimous in recognizing the positive role played by General Cissé and the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic. The President made a statement to the press on 10 January to communicate the conclusions of the Council's meeting.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 16 January, Council members heard a briefing in informal consultations by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, regarding the political developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Security Council was informed of the military situation on the ground, progress in the planned phase III deployment of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the humanitarian situation. Members of the Council welcomed the progress in the peace process and called on the parties to redouble their efforts to take the process forward. They reminded all parties of their obligation to facilitate the deployment of the Mission, in particular in the east of the country, in conformity with resolution 1376 (2001).

Members of the Council called on Rwanda to bring to bear its influence on RCD-Goma for the demilitarization of Kisangani. There was agreement on the importance of the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration process and Council members encouraged the parties to bring forward the disarmament and repatriation of fighters gathered at the Kamina base.

Council members expressed their concern at the fighting in the east of the country and demanded that an end be put to it. They reiterated their call for the total withdrawal of foreign forces and the cessation of any support to the armed groups, and urged all Congolese to show real political will for their engagement in the inter-Congolese dialogue. They welcomed the outcome of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit held at Blantyre on 14 January 2002 and the normalization of relations between Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They also appealed to the international community to increase its assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of the peace process. Council members authorized the President of the Security Council to make a statement to the press on 16 January on their behalf.

The Security Council held a private meeting (4459th) on 29 January, during which the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Léonard She Okitundu, gave a briefing. The Foreign Minister proposed the establishment of an ad hoc international commission to investigate armed groups, which would be subject to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The proposed ad hoc international commission, which would comprise members of the Security Council, representatives of OAU and the international community, would work towards identifying the armed groups, their locations and numbers within a two-month period. The Minister responded to questions asked by some members of the Council.

Eritrea and Ethiopia

On 8 January, Security Council members met in informal consultations of the whole and were briefed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, on the situation between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/1194), which covered the situation in the Temporary Security Zone and its adjacent areas, mine action, humanitarian developments, human rights aspects, confidence-building measures between the two parties and progress on the work of the Boundary Commission, was before the Council members for consideration.

Council members were informed that the Temporary Security Zone was calm; the peace process was on track although the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea continued to experience difficulties in its freedom of movement. In his summing up, the President of the Security Council requested experts to finalize the draft presidential statement circulated at the meeting.

On 16 January, at the 4450th meeting, the President of the Security Council made a statement on behalf of the members of the Council (S/PRST/2002/1) inter alia confirming the Council's intention to send a mission to the two countries in February 2002. At the informal consultations held on 31 January, members of

the Council agreed on the terms of reference for the Security Council Mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Guinea-Bissau

Security Council members were briefed on 8 January in informal consultations of the whole by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall, on the situation in Guinea-Bissau and the activities of the United Nations Peace-building Support Office (UNOGBIS) in that country. Council members also considered the tenth report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/1211) and expressed deep concern over the deepening political crisis, social instability and the ongoing infighting between the Executive on one hand and the Legislative, Judiciary and media on the other. Council members noted with satisfaction the improvement in the security situation along the border between Guinea-Bissau and Senegal.

At the conclusion of the consultations the President made a statement to the press on behalf of Council members, in which he encouraged the President of Guinea-Bissau, Kumba Yala, in his pursuit of the policy of national reconciliation and dialogue, taking into account the established constitutional norms. He also emphasized the need to support the demobilization of former combatants and their integration into civilian life.

The President conveyed the appreciation of the Security Council to the Bretton Woods institutions for the positive role they were playing. The leaders of the subregion, the Friends of Guinea-Bissau and the Economic Community of West African States were all commended, and encouraged to continue playing an active role. Unanimous support to the UNOGBIS team was expressed for their tireless efforts to help keep the peace-building process in Guinea-Bissau on course, despite multiple challenges.

Liberia

During informal consultations on 23 and 28 January, the Security Council discussed the parameters of resolution 1343 (2001) with regard to actions relating to the violation of sanctions which occurred prior to the adoption of that resolution.

The members of the Security Council requested the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia to pursue consultations on the issue.

Sierra Leone

Council members were briefed on 9 January, in informal consultations of the whole, by Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sierra Leone, who introduced the twelfth report of the Secretary-General (S/2001/1195) on the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

The Special Representative also provided an update on developments since the issuance of the report and informed the Council that 46,773 former combatants had so far been disarmed, representing a much higher figure than the 25,000 originally targeted. He stressed that preparations for the elections scheduled for 14 May 2002 were going well and that the responsibility to conduct the elections rested with the Government of Sierra Leone and the National Electoral Commission. He also informed the Council that the seven members for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission had been selected. He also stated that steps for the setting up of the Special Court were being taken and reiterated his appeal to the international community and bilateral donors to continue providing assistance to Sierra Leone.

Members of the Council expressed satisfaction at the prevailing political stability, restoration of peace and the disarmament of the former combatants. The Council members emphasized the necessity for the reintegration of all former combatants into civilian life in order to avoid any threat from them in the future.

At the conclusion of the consultations, the President made a statement to the press on behalf of the Council members, in which he expressed deep regret at the death of the six Zambian peacekeepers on 5 January and offered the condolences of the Council members to the Government and people of Zambia.

Council members also noted that the elections to be held in Sierra Leone in May 2002 were an important milestone in the peace process in that country and reiterated that it was up to the Government and the National Electoral Commission to conduct the elections. The role of UNAMSIL in providing security, logistics, monitoring public information and coordination was commended. Council members stressed the importance of regional stability and encouraged high-level contacts within the Mano River Union States for improving relations among the countries of the region. Council members confirmed

their intention to adopt a resolution to clarify the role of UNAMSIL in the elections.

At its 4451st meeting, on 16 January, the Security Council adopted resolution 1389 (2002), concerning UNAMSIL, and the general elections to be held in Sierra Leone on 14 May 2002.

Western Sahara

On 4 January, members of the Security Council discussed the situation in Western Sahara under "Other matters", and at the end of the meeting the President of the Security Council made a statement to the press in which he stated that:

Council members welcomed the Polisario Front's New Year's Day decision to release 115 Moroccan prisoners of war and in this regard expressed appreciation for the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the current President of the Council of the European Union and others, as well as the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, William Eagleton, and his successor, William Lacy Swing.

Members of the Council stressed that this question had to be solved on a strictly humanitarian basis in accordance with the position stated by the Secretary-General in his reports to the Security Council. Members of the Council also noted the commitment of the Government of Morocco to addressing the problem of the fate of people unaccounted for in the Western Sahara conflict and welcomed its recent decision to release a number of Sahrawi detainees.

Members of the Council also recalled the relevant provisions of resolution 1359 (2001), urged the parties to solve the problem of the fate of people unaccounted for and stressed that it was high time for the two parties to abide by their obligation under international humanitarian law to release without further delay all those held since the beginning of the conflict.

On 15 January, members of the Council considered the interim report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2002/41). Members of the Council also heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operation, Hédi Annabi, on the situation on the ground.

The interim report gave an overview of the lack of political progress in the settlement of the dispute over Western Sahara. The Secretary-General called upon Morocco, the Frente POLISARIO and Algeria and Mauritania to continue to cooperate with his Personal Envoy, James Baker III, in his efforts to find an early, durable and agreed resolution of the conflict over Western Sahara.

The Assistant Secretary-General inter alia reported on the smooth passage of the Paris-Dakar rally and welcomed the decision by the Frente POLISARIO to release 115 Moroccan prisoners of war.

Asia

Afghanistan

During its informal consultations on 11 January, the Security Council heard a briefing on the situation in Afghanistan by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, which included comments on the report of the Secretary-General on the humanitarian implications of measures imposed by Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000) on the territory of Afghanistan under Taliban control (S/2001/1215). In his briefing, the Under-Secretary-General informed the Council that the Interim Authority had been working in close consultation with all groups in Afghanistan for the establishment of a special independent commission for the convening of the Emergency Loya Jirga.

The Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Afghanistan, Ambassador Valdivieso, Permanent Representative of Colombia, briefed members of the Security Council on the outcome of the meeting of the Committee held on 10 January.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, briefed the Council on the operation of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Military Technical Agreement signed on 4 January by the Commander of ISAF and the Interim Administration of Afghanistan.

Members of the Council expressed full support to Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi for his commendable work in setting up the infrastructure for the realization of the Bonn Agreement and took note of the progress achieved in the establishment of the Special

Independent Commission for the convening of the Loya Jirga and also in the establishment of the Afghan Civil Service Commission. They called on all bilateral and multilateral donors, in coordination with United Nations agencies and special representatives of the Secretary-General, to continue to provide humanitarian assistance.

At the informal consultations of the whole, the Security Council also decided to remove the Central Bank of Afghanistan (Da Afghanistan Bank) from the consolidated list maintained by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). A note by the President of the Security Council (S/2002/74) was issued in this regard.

At the informal consultations held on 23 January, the Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Carolyn McAskie, briefed Council members on the situation in Afghanistan. She outlined the positive developments that had taken place after the establishment of the Interim Authority. Council members were also informed of the outcome of the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held on 21 and 22 January in Tokyo.

At its 4449th and 4452nd meetings, on 15 and 16 January, the Security Council adopted resolutions 1388 (2002) lifting sanctions against Ariana Afghan Airlines, and 1390 (2002) continuing the sanctions on Osama bin Laden, al-Qa'idah organization and the Taliban.

The Security Council held a public meeting on 30 January on the situation in Afghanistan. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius presided over the meeting. The Council heard a briefing by the Chairman of the Interim Authority, Hamid Karzai.

Mr. Karzai explained the challenges faced by a reborn Afghanistan and reiterated the importance of the continued support of the Security Council and the international community in the reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation of a country ravaged by war and drought. He told the Council that the "new Afghanistan" would need an extended multinational force that would help to reinstate peace and security in areas outside Kabul. He requested the Council to consider the possibility of the expansion of the multinational force already operating in Kabul under the leadership of the United Kingdom. He informed Council members that necessary arrangements were being made to establish the Loya Jirga, which would pave the way for a representative and popular government in Afghanistan.

Expressing his appreciation for the outcome of the International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan held in Tokyo in January 2002, he invited donor States and organizations to fulfil their pledges as soon as possible. He said he would ensure that every single dollar spent by the Interim Authority would be spent in all transparency and accountability.

Mr. Karzai paid tribute to the United Nations and the Security Council for their pivotal role in making possible the historic Bonn Agreement, which had led to a peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan on 22 December 2001.

In a statement made on behalf of all its members, the President of the Security Council assured the new Afghan leader and the Afghan people of the Council's unqualified and unreserved support in their quest for peace, justice and stability in Afghanistan.

East Timor

At the public meeting (4462nd) held on 30 January, on the situation in East Timor, Council members endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in his report (S/2002/80 and Corr.1). These recommendations are:

(a) Extending the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) until the date of independence, that is until 20 May 2002;

(b) The need for a successor mission, which would provide assistance crucial for the stability of East Timor and the viability of its emergent public administration after independence. The mission would be for a period not exceeding two years starting from the date of independence.

Members unanimously expressed support for the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the staff of UNTAET for the positive developments that had taken place in East Timor. They acknowledged that the assistance of the international community both collectively and individually had been instrumental in the progress of East Timor towards independence.

On 31 January, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1392 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of UNTAET until 20 May 2002.

On 23 January, the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of the provisional rules of procedure by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi.

The Assistant Secretary-General highlighted the invaluable contributions and support provided by Member States to UNTAET in pursuing its mandate in East Timor. He informed the Council that the presidential elections had been scheduled for 14 April 2002.

The members of the Council had a constructive exchange of views with the representatives of participating troop-contributing countries.

The discussions focused on the following:

(a) General support for the recommendation of the Secretary-General to renew the mandate of UNTAET until 20 May 2002;

(b) Recognition of the need for a successor mission to UNTAET with a defined mandate and set time limit;

(c) Endorsement of the downsizing of the United Nations mission in East Timor and of the acceleration of the East Timorization process;

(d) Need for a proper "exit strategy" to ensure a complete success of the United Nations mission in East Timor.

Middle East

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 30 January, during the informal consultations, members of the Security Council heard a briefing on the situation in the middle east by Terje Roed-Larsen, the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority. This was the first such briefing following the Council's decision at the beginning of the month to hold regular briefings on the situation in the Middle East.

The Special Coordinator stated that the situation on the ground was extremely dangerous and identified three basic problems, namely, occupation, violence and economic distress, as the major causes for the deterioration in the situation. Since the beginning of the current crisis in September 2000, up to 25 January 2002, 904 Palestinians had been killed and over 17,000 Palestinians injured; during the same period, 259 Israelis had been killed and over 2,400 injured.

He also stated that many of the deaths resulted from the failure of both parties to live up to their obligations under international law to protect the basic rights of civilians, including the right to security.

In a statement to the press on behalf of Council members on 30 January, the President of the Council expressed concern at the unprecedented levels of violence and deplored the loss of lives and suffering of the civilian population on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides. He further stressed that there could be no military solution; that violence would only create more violence and that the only way forward was a return to dialogue and negotiation. He expressed support for the efforts of the Secretary-General and those of the Special Coordinator to assist the parties to move forward in the peace process. He also encouraged sustained engagement by the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, the Russian Federation, Norway, China and other countries involved in the peace process.

Lebanon

On 21 January, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Hédi Annabi, briefed the Security Council at a private meeting with the troop-contributing countries on the situation in south Lebanon, on the basis of the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) (S/2002/55). The Assistant Secretary-General stated inter alia that the situation continued to be generally stable throughout most of the UNIFIL area of operation with the exception of ongoing tensions in the Shab'a farms area. He also mentioned that the Israeli air violations of the Blue Line continued on an almost daily basis. He also supported the phased configuration of UNIFIL to a strength of 2,000 all ranks.

At the informal consultations held on 28 January, Council members heard a briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, who introduced the report of the Secretary-General (S/2002/55). Members of the Council welcomed the generally stable situation throughout the UNIFIL area of operation, called upon all parties to stop the violations of the Blue Line and deplored the ongoing tensions in the Shab'a farms area. Members of the Council encouraged the Government of Lebanon to continue to take steps with a view to re-establishing its authority within its internationally recognized boundaries. Council members took note of the communication to the Government of Lebanon and UNIFIL of maps and information on the location of mines, and expressed support for ongoing demining operations. Council members also endorsed the recommendations of the Secretary-General for phased reconfiguration of UNIFIL as outlined in his report and for an extension of the mandate of UNIFIL for a further period of six months, until 31 July 2002.

At its 4458th meeting, on 28 January, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1391 (2002) inter alia extending the mandate of UNIFIL until 31 July 2002.

Europe

Abkhazia, Georgia

The Security Council met in informal consultations on 25 January to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (S/2002/88). At the beginning of the meeting, the President informed members of the Council about the meeting held on 24 January with the troop-contributing countries. Council members were then briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Dieter Boden, on the latest developments in the region. He also informed the Council that the document entitled "Basic principles for the distribution of competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi" had been finalized with the contribution and full support of the group of Friends of the Secretary-General. He indicated however that one side had refused to accept it.

The signing of a Protocol on the situation in the Kodori Valley on 17 January 2002 was considered to be a major development. According to the Protocol, Georgia would withdraw its troops from the Kodori Valley while the Abkhaz side would not deploy forces in that area. The United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) would resume patrolling the area as from 1 February 2002. Council members called on both sides to abide by their commitments under the Protocol.

Following agreement by the Georgian authorities on 31 January 2002 to extend the mandate of the Commonwealth of Independent States peacekeeping force until the end of June 2002, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1393 (2002) to inter alia extend the mandate of UNOMIG for another period of six months, until 31 July 2002.

Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

At a public meeting (4454th) held on 21 January, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Security Council on developments in Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, since the elections of 17 November 2001. The Council was informed that the newly elected members of the Kosovo Assembly were faced with a deadlock on the choice of the President of Kosovo and the formation of a coalition government. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) continued to be in charge pending the transfer of authority to the provisional institutions of self-government. After UNMIK had handed over direct control, its structure would change and it would limit itself to an advisory role. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General would retain his competencies as per the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). With respect to the security of minority communities in the province, he stressed that UNMIK continued its efforts to create an environment wherein minority communities would feel secure. He also informed the Council that close police protection of Assembly members of the minority communities had been reinforced by UNMIK following the murder of an LDK member of the Assembly on 17 January.

Security Council members were apprised of the appointment of Michael Steiner (Germany) as the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK in replacement of Hans Haekkerup, who resigned in December 2001.

Members of the Council commended the excellent work done by Mr. Haekkerup during his

tenure of office as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIK and also expressed their support to his successor in carrying out the mandate of the United Nations mission in Kosovo. There was consensus on the part of Council members to urge the newly appointed members of the Kosovo Assembly to work towards reconciliation with a view to breaking the deadlock on the choice of a President.

Council members condemned the recent killing of the member of the Assembly and called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. Requesting UNMIK and KFOR to step up efforts to combat organized crime and terrorism in the province, Council members also urged political leaders in Kosovo to bring their influence to bear on their supporters to counter ethnic extremism. They also welcomed the signing of the Common Document on 5 November 2001 by UNMIK and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, which remained a solid basis for their cooperation.

Prevlaka, Croatia

The members of the Security Council held informal consultations on 14 January to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP) (S/2002/1). Council members were briefed by the Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The President informed members of the Council about the meeting held on 10 January with the troop-contributing countries.

The representative of the Secretariat informed the Council that, in general, the situation on the ground in Prevlaka remained calm, although the agreed security regime continued to be violated by both parties. He further informed the Council that UNMOP continued to monitor the demilitarized and United Nations-controlled zones of the Prevlaka peninsula.

Council members welcomed the steps taken by both parties to form an inter-State commission to address the outstanding issues of the common border and demilitarization. Council members also expressed support for the ongoing process of bilateral talks and requested both parties to inform the Council regularly on the progress made in the settlement of the dispute.

At its 4448th meeting, on 15 January, the Security Council adopted resolution 1387 (2002), by which it extended the mandate of UNMOP by a further six months, until 15 July 2002.

Other matters

Elections of bureaux of sanctions committees

Following consultations with the members of the Council on the allocation of the chairmanships and vice-chairmanships of the sanctions committees, on 4 January the President reported to the Council that a consensus had been reached on such allocation. The bureaux of the sanctions committees were elected for a term ending on 31 December 2002 as follows:

(a) Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait: Chairman Ole Peter Kolby (Norway); Vice-Chairmen Bulgaria and Mauritius;

(b) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 748 (1992) concerning the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya: Chairman François Lonsény Fall (Guinea); Vice-Chairmen Bulgaria and Ireland;

(c) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia: Chairman Stephan Tafrov (Bulgaria); Vice-Chairmen Mexico and Norway;

(d) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola: Chairman Richard Ryan (Ireland); Vice-Chairmen Cameroon and Colombia;

(e) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 918 (1994) concerning Rwanda: Chairman Mikhail Wehbe (Syrian Arab Republic); Vice-Chairmen Guinea and Ireland;

(f) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1132 (1997) concerning Sierra Leone: Chairman Jorge Navarette (Mexico); Vice-Chairmen Cameroon and Singapore;

(g) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Afghanistan: Chairman Alfonso Valdivieso (Colombia); Vice-Chairmen Guinea and Singapore;

(h) Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1343 (2001) concerning Liberia: Chairman Kishore Mahbubani (Singapore); Vice-Chairmen Mauritius and Syrian Arab Republic.

Working Group on peacekeeping operations

The Security Council held a private meeting (4447th) on 14 January to consider the third report of the Security Council Working Group on peacekeeping operations (S/2001/1335).

The former Chairman of the Working Group, Ambassador Curtis Ward of Jamaica, on presenting the report, gave a briefing on the six-month assessment of Security Council resolution 1353 (2001).

The third report of the Working Group included a draft note by the President of the Council containing a proposal for the Working Group to be used as an additional mechanism for strengthening cooperation with troop-contributing countries. Ambassador Curtis Ward proposed some amendments to the draft note by the President.

Members of the Council made comments and posed questions in connection with the briefing by Ambassador Ward. The latter responded to the comments and questions posed by members of the Council.

The members of the Council approved the amended note by the President of the Security Council (S/2002/56).

During informal consultations held on 4 January, the Security Council agreed to appoint Ambassador Wegger Christian Strømmen, Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway, as Chairman of the Working Group on peacekeeping operations.

Working Group on general issues relating to sanctions

During informal consultations of the whole on 14 January, members of the Security Council agreed to the appointment of Ambassador Martin Belinga-Eboutou, Permanent Representative of Cameroon, as Chairman of the Council's Working Group on general issues relating to sanctions.

Working Group on documentation and other procedural questions

The Mauritius presidency paid particular attention to the Security Council working methods. A total of nine hours of consultations and discussions at both ambassadorial and expert levels was spent during the month to review the format and content of the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. Besides discussions at ambassadorial level during informal consultations, two informal meetings and one formal meeting of the Working Group on documentation and other procedural questions were held to discuss the draft note by the President prepared by the delegation of Singapore relating to the review of the format and content of the report of the Security Council to the General Assembly.

Members of the Council also held discussions on the format of the "wrap-up" session at the end of each presidency. Many delegations expressed support for an interactive session with non-members of the Council. On 28 January members of the Council had an exchange of views on a "non-paper" on the wrap-up session circulated by the presidency. They agreed to pursue discussions on the matter further.

Informal working group on the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Tribunal for Rwanda

The Informal working group met on 25 January to consider the three options suggested by the Legal Counsel, Hans Corell, on the question of the nationality of judges of the International Tribunals.

The working group agreed to have recourse to the third option, namely that of amending the statutes of the two Tribunals.

Madagascar

During informal consultations of the whole on 28 January, the delegation of Mauritius requested a briefing by the Secretariat on the situation in Madagascar following the inconclusive results of the presidential elections. The Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall, briefed members of the Council on the issue. The President of the Security Council, on behalf of its members, made a statement to the press in which he inter alia called on both parties to refrain from violence and to remain calm, to comply with all constitutional, electoral and legal requirements, and requested that the elections be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner, in the presence of international observers.

Wrap-up

The Mauritius presidency was concluded by a wrap-up session, held at a public meeting on 31 January 2002.

Appendix I

Statements to the press made by the President of the Security Council in January 2002

Western Sahara (4 January)

Members of the Security Council discussed the situation in Western Sahara during consultations on 4 January. They welcomed the Polisario Front's New Year's Day decision to release 115 Moroccan prisoners of war, many of whom have been detained for decades.

In this regard, members of the Council support the efforts of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the current President of the Council of the European Union and others, as well as the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General, William Eagleton, and his successor William Lacy Swing. Members of the Council stressed that this issue must be solved on a strictly humanitarian basis in accordance with the position of the Secretary-General as stated in his reports to the Security Council.

Members of the Council also noted the Government of Morocco's commitment to addressing the problem of the fate of people unaccounted for in the Western Sahara conflict and welcomed the recent Moroccan decision to release a number of Sahrawi detainees.

Members of the Council recalled the relevant provisions of resolution 1359 (2001) and urged the parties to solve the problem of the fate of people unaccounted for. Members of the Council have raised this issue several times in the past. They believe that it is time for the two parties to abide by their obligation under international humanitarian law to release without further delay all those held since the start of the conflict.

Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (4 January)

The Council took note of the report of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency on protection against nuclear terrorism.

Members of the Council encouraged IAEA to pursue its work in the field of protection against nuclear terrorism.

Outgoing Security Council members (4 January)

The Council met this morning and members recorded their appreciation for the important contribution of the outgoing members, namely, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Mali, Tunisia and Ukraine, to the work of the Security Council during the term 2000/2001.

Members of the Council also expressed their appreciation for the excellent manner in which Ambassador Moctar Ouane of Mali presided over the Council during the month of December 2001.

Guinea-Bissau (8 January)

The Security Council considered the tenth report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of UNOGBIS. The Council members had a comprehensive briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Ibrahima Fall.

The Council members encouraged the President of Guinea-Bissau, Kumba Yala, in his pursuit of the policy of national reconciliation and dialogue taking into account the established constitutional norms.

Council members also encouraged the current Chairman of ECOWAS and leaders of the subregion, as well as the Friends of Guinea-Bissau, to continue playing an active role and redouble their initiatives of good offices for economic and financial assistance.

Council members expressed support for the demobilization of former combatants and their reintegration into civilian life.

Council members expressed gratitude to the Bretton Woods institutions for the flexibility and understanding they have shown all along, while calling on the Government of Guinea-Bissau to pursue fruitful collaboration with these institutions.

Council members welcomed the proposal for a round table, to be organized as soon as the political situation allowed, and called on donor countries to contribute generously when it is held.

Council members expressed continued support to the team of UNOGBIS for their tireless efforts to help keep the peace-building process in Guinea-Bissau on course, despite multiple challenges.

United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (9 January)

Council members considered the Secretary-General's twelfth report on UNAMSIL (S/2001/1195). They expressed their deep regret at the death of six Zambian peacekeepers on 5 January. They offered their condolences to the Government and people of Zambia.

Council members agreed that the elections in Sierra Leone in May were an important milestone in the peace process in that country. While elections were, of course, primarily the responsibility of the Government of Sierra Leone and the National Electoral Commission, Council members agreed that UNAMSIL had an important supporting role to play. They welcomed the Secretary-General's recommendations for the role of UNAMSIL in the elections: to provide support with security, logistics, monitoring, public information and the coordination of election observers.

Council members stressed the importance of regional stability and encouraged high-level contacts within the Mano River Union States for improving relations between the countries of the region.

Council members also underlined the importance of adequate resources for the reintegration of ex-combatants.

Council members confirmed their intention to adopt a resolution clarifying the role of UNAMSIL in the elections as soon as possible.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (9 January)

Members of the Security Council noted the forthcoming extraordinary summit meeting of SADC, to be held on 14 January 2002 at Blantyre, during which the conflict situations in the region would be discussed.

Members of the Council expressed full support to the heads of State and Government of SADC for their strenuous efforts in finding a solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Central African Republic (10 January)

Members of the Security Council expressed their deep concern about the increasing problems affecting the political and economic situation in the Central African Republic.

Members of the Council welcomed the positive steps taken by the Central African Republic authorities and called upon them to continue to facilitate the national dialogue and reconciliation.

Members of the Council requested the Secretary-General, through his Representative, and in cooperation with OAU, to harmonize the various initiatives taken at the regional level to restore calm and stability in the Central African Republic.

Members of the Council encouraged the international community and the development partners of the Central African Republic to continue to provide assistance to that country.

Members of the Council remain deeply concerned about the interdependence between the continuing crisis in the Central African Republic and the situation in neighbouring States, in particular, and the subregion, in general.

Members of the Council reaffirmed their support for General Lamine Cissé and the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in the Central African Republic.

Afghanistan (11 January)

Security Council members were briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Kieran Prendergast, on the situation in Afghanistan.

Members of the Council welcomed the positive changes in Afghanistan as a result of the collapse of the Taliban regime. They reiterated their support for the Interim Authority of Afghanistan in its efforts to return the country to peace, stability and normalcy and move forward the political process in accordance with the Bonn Agreement.

Members of the Council reaffirmed that the United Nations should continue to play a central role in supporting the Interim Authority and the Afghan people in their efforts and expressed in this regard full support of the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Ambassador Lakhdar Brahimi, in the accomplishment of his mandate.

Members of the Council also considered the report of the Secretary-General on the humanitarian implications of the measures imposed by Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1333 (2000). They noted that the measures imposed on the Taliban had limited adverse effects on the humanitarian situation. Members also noted that in view of the latest political developments some measures imposed by those resolutions appeared to have lost focus and would have to be adjusted to new realities.

Members were briefed by the Chairman of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), Ambassador Alfonso Valdivieso of Colombia, on the meeting of the Committee held on 10 January. Members of the Council agreed to exclude the Central Bank of Afghanistan from the list of entities subject to the measures set out in paragraph 4 (b) of resolution 1267 (1999).

Members of the Council were briefed by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom on the initial deployment of the International Security Assistance Force, including the signature of the Military Technical Agreement reached between the Interim Authority of Afghanistan and the Force. They took note of the Agreement and recalled the request from the Council to the ISAF leadership to provide periodic reports on progress towards the implementation of its mandate through the Secretary-General.

Members of the Council remained deeply concerned about the grave humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. They called on all bilateral and multilateral donors, in coordination with the United Nations agencies and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Interim Authority, to continue to provide humanitarian help and assist with the rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction of Afghanistan. In this regard, they looked forward to the reconstruction conference to be held in Tokyo on 21 and 22 January.

Council members called, in particular, for the international community to provide immediate assistance to the Interim Authority by making rapid contributions to the Afghan Interim Authority Fund.

Members of the Council also called on all Afghans to support full and unimpeded access by humanitarian organizations to people in need and to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers.

Burundi (15 January)

Members of the Council welcomed the setting up of the transitional institutions in Burundi, in particular the National Assembly, and encouraged all the parties to complete this process.

Members of the Council strongly called for a ceasefire. They underlined that the ceasefire was the foremost priority. They urged the rebel groups to cease hostilities immediately and to enter into negotiations. They reiterated that there could be no justification whatsoever for any attacks by the rebel groups.

Members of the Council encouraged all States, in particular those in the region, to continue to support the efforts of the facilitation, led by the President of Gabon, Omar Bongo, and the Deputy President of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, to bring the armed groups into the peace process.

Members of the Council stressed the importance of the dialogue between Burundi and its neighbours, and in this regard, welcomed the improvement of the bilateral relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi, in particular the outcome of the recent visit of the Foreign Minister of Burundi to Kinshasa. Council members strongly encouraged the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi to cooperate further with one another in this regard.

Members of the Council commended the South African protection unit for its positive contribution to the peace process in Burundi.

Members of the Council reiterated their call to the donor community to enhance humanitarian activities and development cooperation with Burundi, and to honour as soon as possible the commitments made during the round-table meeting on Burundi held at Geneva in December 2001.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (16 January)

Members of the Council welcomed the progress in the peace process and called on the parties to redouble their efforts to bring this process forward.

Members of the Council reminded all parties of their obligation to facilitate the deployment of MONUC, in particular in the east of the country, in conformity with Council resolution 1376 (2001). They called on the Rassemblement congolais pour la

démocratie (RCD-Goma) and Rwanda to cooperate closely with MONUC in this regard. They took note of the commitment by RCD to facilitate the deployment of MONUC in Kindu and encouraged it to implement this commitment without delay. They expressed their concern at the creation of the joint RCD/Mouvement de libération congolais (MLC) force to be sent to Kindu.

Members of the Council called on Rwanda to bring to bear is influence on RCD-Goma for the demilitarization of Kisangani, in conformity with the Council's resolutions. They also called on all parties to the peace process to allow the full reopening of the Congo River, so that commercial links could be re-established between the different regions of the country.

Members of the Council recalled the importance of the process of disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of armed groups, and encouraged the parties to bring forward the disarmament and repatriation of the fighters gathered at the Kamina base.

Members of the Council expressed their concern at the fighting in the east of the country, including fighting among rebel groups, whose first victims are the civilian population. They demanded that an end be put to this fighting and that humanitarian law be respected.

Members of the Council reiterated their call for the total withdrawal of foreign forces and the cessation of any support to the armed groups, and urged all Congolese to show real political will for their commitment to the inter-Congolese dialogue.

Members of the Council welcomed the recent improvement of bilateral relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. They encouraged them to continue and invited all the parties to the conflict also to intensify their bilateral contacts. In this regard, they welcomed the outcome of the recent SADC Summit held at Blantyre, which demonstrated the commitment of SADC to peace in the region.

Members of the Council urged the international donor community to increase its aid to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in support of the peace process, so that the progress of the peace process would mean concrete changes for the Congolese population, whose situation remained precarious.

Madagascar (28 January)

Members of the Security Council expressed concern about the situation of unrest prevailing in Madagascar and the potential for undermining peace and stability in that country in particular and the region as a whole.

The Council has taken note of the election results proclaimed by the High Constitutional Court of Madagascar and the ensuing decision to call for a second-ballot runoff between President Didier Ratsiraka and Marc Ravalomanana, Mayor of Antananarivo.

The Council called on both candidates to comply with all constitutional, electoral and legal requirements and requested that the elections be conducted in a free, fair and transparent manner, in the presence of international observers. The Council called on the supporters of both candidates to refrain from violence. The Council appealed to the Malagasy people to remain calm and to respect the results of the next round of elections.

Middle East (30 January)

Earlier this month, members of the Security Council had decided on the need for regular briefings on the developments regarding the situation in the Middle East. This afternoon, members of the Council heard the first such briefing from the Secretary-General's Personal Representative and Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Terje Roed-Larsen.

Members of the Council were increasingly concerned at the unprecedented levels of violence and the steadily worsening situation in the Middle East. They deplored the loss of life and suffering of the civilian populations on all sides.

Members of the Council stressed that the destructive and dangerous cycle of violence should be immediately stopped.

Members of the Council also stressed that there could be no military solution and that violence would only create more violence. The only way forward was in the return to dialogue and negotiation. Members of the Council called on both parties to resume negotiations and to work for a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, based on

resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the Madrid Principles.

In endorsing their earlier statements on the Middle East, members of the Council recalled that Israel and the Palestinian Authority had accepted the Tenet security plan and the Mitchell Committee report.

Members of the Council strongly supported the efforts of the Secretary-General and those of the Special Coordinator to help the parties move forward. They also welcomed and encouraged sustained engagement by the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, the Russian Federation, Norway, China and other countries involved in the peace process.

Appendix II

Summary of the open meeting of the Security Council on the situation in Africa

We have had a very rich and useful discussion on the situation in Africa. The presentations and discussions held in the course of the two days' meeting on Africa can be grouped into the following categories. Firstly, presentations of a general nature that provided a periscope of the situation and problems of the African region, broadly analysing the situation in Africa in general or in specific subregions such as IGAD, the Mano River Union and West Africa, East Africa and the SADC region. A second category of statements dealt with national policies towards Africa. A third category focused on the results of Security Council action in Africa, while a fourth category proposed initiatives that the Security Council could consider taking in the future to improve its activities in Africa. The debate was extremely rich and informative and therefore I would only attempt to summarize recommendations that were made relating to the improvement and strengthening of the Security Council activities in Africa. These recommendations can be grouped into three broad categories, (1) political, (2) institutional and (3) operational.

Political issues

- The need for a comprehensive, pragmatic and result-oriented approach to conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (S/1998/318);
- The effective implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Millennium Declaration, especially as it relates to Africa;
- A more proactive role for the Security Council in dealing with conflicts in Africa, notably a firmer commitment, without being selective and on the basis of appropriate forces and resources to meet the realities on the ground;
- Substitution of a policy of reaction for a policy of conflict prevention;
- Adoption and implementation of a global and integrated approach to the problems of peace, security and development in Africa at the continental and subregional levels, following the example of West Africa;
- In this regard, there is a desire that all peace processes be accompanied by an economic recovery and reconstruction component;
- Strengthening of the multi-dimensional character of peace operations in Africa;
- Support to African countries and organizations in dealing with conflict prevention, management and resolution, especially through the effective reinforcement of their capacities;
- Effective measures to curb the proliferation of small arms, and support for the implementation of the Bamako Declaration, at the continental level, of the ECOWAS moratorium on small arms and light weapons;
- Support to Africa for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development as Africa's own initiative for the development of the people of Africa.

Institutional issues

- Implementation of a framework for cooperation and reinforcement of dialogue between the Security Council and ECOWAS;
- Creation of a framework for institutional cooperation of a consultative nature between the OAU Central Organ and the Security Council and between the Security Council and the peace and security organs of the subregional organizations;
- Reinforcement of financial and material support to OAU and subregional mechanisms for conflict prevention, management and resolution and for peacekeeping;
- Better coordination of the sectoral activities of the United Nations system in Africa;
- Reinforcement of relations between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions.

Operational issues

- Urgent implementation of the decisions taken by the Security Council at previous meetings relating to operational cooperation with OAU (December 1999) and to the Security Council summit (September 2001);
- Consideration of the concept of trans-border States as a framework for the prevention and resolution of trans-border conflicts;
- Establishment of the Security Council working group on Africa, with a clear mandate for a concrete outcome;
- Establishment of a permanent mechanism of follow-up of the implementation of sanctions decided by the Security Council;
- More frequent Security Council visits and reviews of peace operations in Africa;
- Structural mechanisms of cooperation between the Security Council's Counter-terrorism Committee and OAU on the prevention and fight against terrorism;
- Ensuring better coordination of United Nations, OAU, subregional organizations and individual States' efforts and initiatives towards peace in Africa;
- Effective targeted sanctions, respectful of the physical and social security of the civilian population. In this regard, one would wish for the finalization of the review of the sanctions regimes and their collateral effects;
- Appointment and/or establishment of a focal point of the United Nations Organization to coordinate the multisectoral activities of the United Nations system in Africa;
- Ensuring viable and sustained funding of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, especially the reintegration, reinsertion and reconstruction aspects, to avoid the Liberia and Guinea-Bissau syndrome;
- Making the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa an operational outfit for the implementation of regional and integrated approaches to the attainment of peace, security and development;
- Welcoming the creation by the Economic and Social Council of a consultative group on countries that are emerging from conflicts.